



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

Mr. H. Curtis Spalding
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109-3912

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Dear Mr. Spalding:

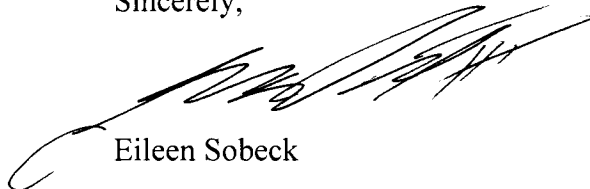
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Thank you for your letter of notification for the request for a variance in the thermal discharge limits under Section 316(a) of the Clean Water Act for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service staff in Gloucester confirms that they have received notification and a request for consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. They are waiting to hear from staff in your office and at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in order to discuss whether the renewal of the NPDES permit triggers re-initiation of the 2012 consultation on the continued operation of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. That consultation considered operation of the facility pursuant to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission license and EPA's 1991 NPDES permit.

I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



Eileen Sobeck

